

Remarks

Claims 1-12 are pending.

Claims 1-12 have been rejected.

Claim 1 is presently amended.

Claims 1-12 are submitted herein for review.

No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims under 35 U.S.C. Sec. 103 as being unpatentable over Silderberg (US 20030010821 A1) in view of Amirpanahi (U.S. Patent No. 5,648,906). Applicants note that the Office Action makes reference to the prior reference Lee but that reference does not appear to be used in any detail. Applicants are treating the rejection as Silderberg in view of Amirpanahi.

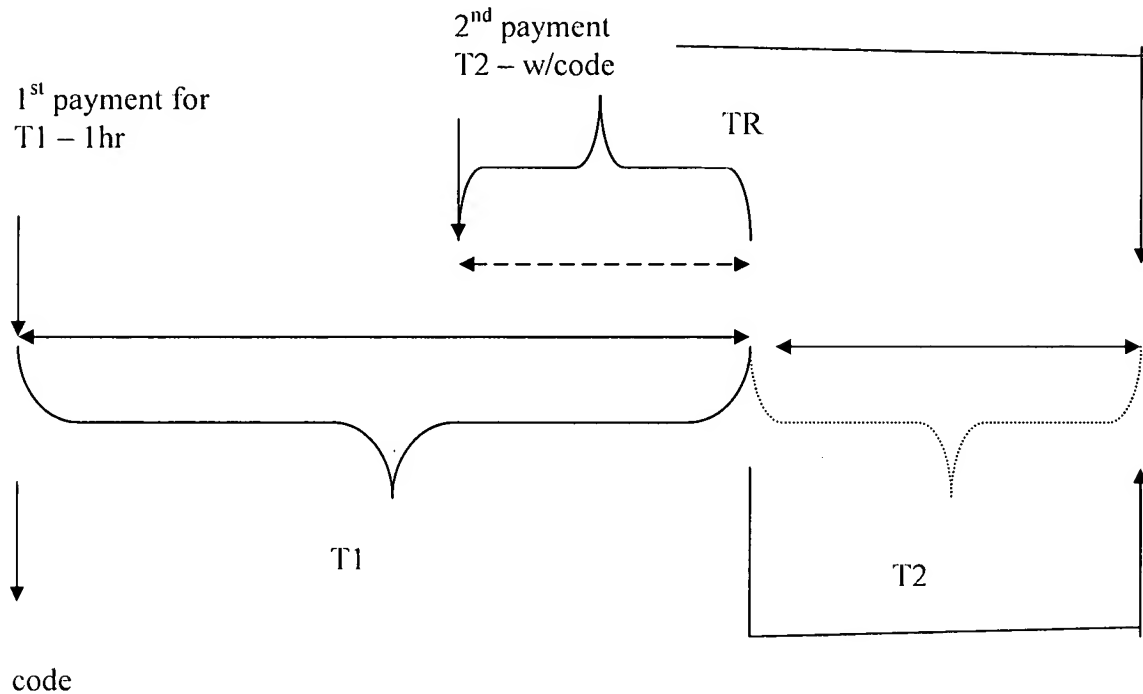
The present arrangement as set forth in independent claim 1 is directed to a method of paying for a parking space using a payment system including a payment means including receiving, at the payment system, a first payment from a user corresponding to a first authorized parking time. The payment system supplies to the user an extending code specific to the first payment for extending parking time.

The payment system then receives from the user a second payment corresponding to a second authorized parking time along with the extending code specific to the first payment. The payment system automatically increases the second authorized parking time by a residual authorized time corresponding to the first authorized parking time

linked to the first payment identified by the received extending code.

Independent claim 10 is a similar claim in system format.

As noted in the prior Amendment present arrangement is shown in graphic format:



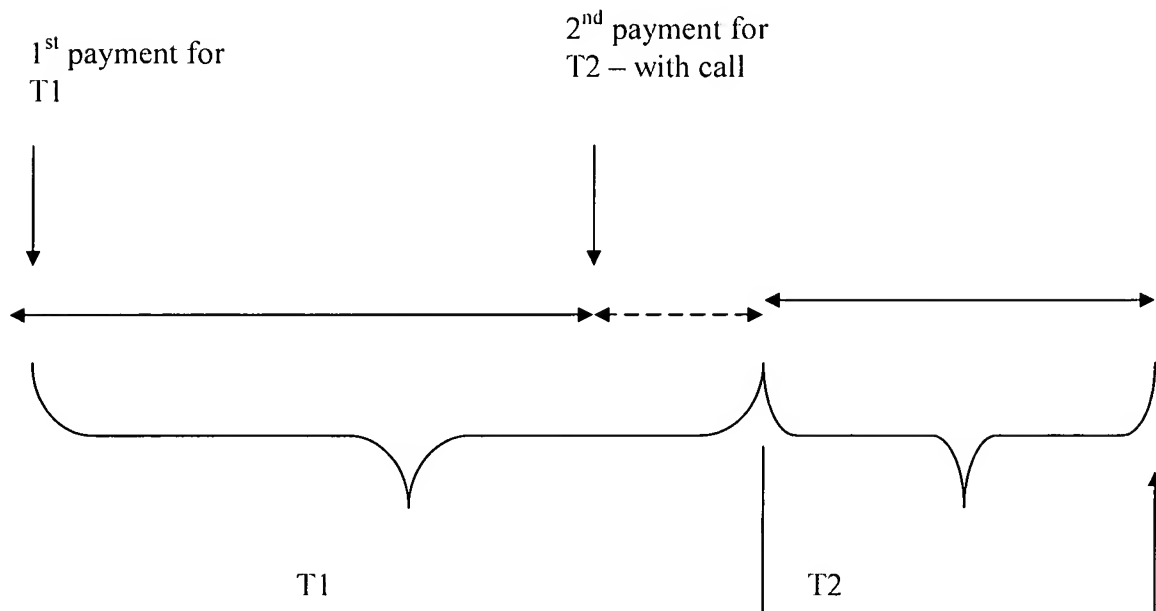
For example, such an arrangement provides an extending code specific to the first payment for extending parking time. This code can be used at the owner's discretion (T2).

For example, at any time a user may make a second payment augmenting there prior paid time. For example, if a user makes a payment for 1 hour but decides after 30min that they really needed 1:30, then they can enter their code from the first payment and pay for 30min. The new time (T2) set from the time of the second payment (30min

after the first payment) will be for 1 additional hour for a total of 1:30 (T1 = 30min and T2 = 30min paid at second payment plus 30min added time from remainder on T1). *This is at least in part possible owing to the code provided at the outset.*

The cited Silverberg reference describes a system that sends a mobile page/call to a users cell phone approximately 5 minutes before expiry. The user may then add a second block of paid time if they need to extend. For example a user may pay for 1 hr. Then at 55 minutes they get a call to re-up their payment. If they chose yes, they will pay for one more hour to start after the first 1 hour expires. If they chose no, it expires at 1 hr.

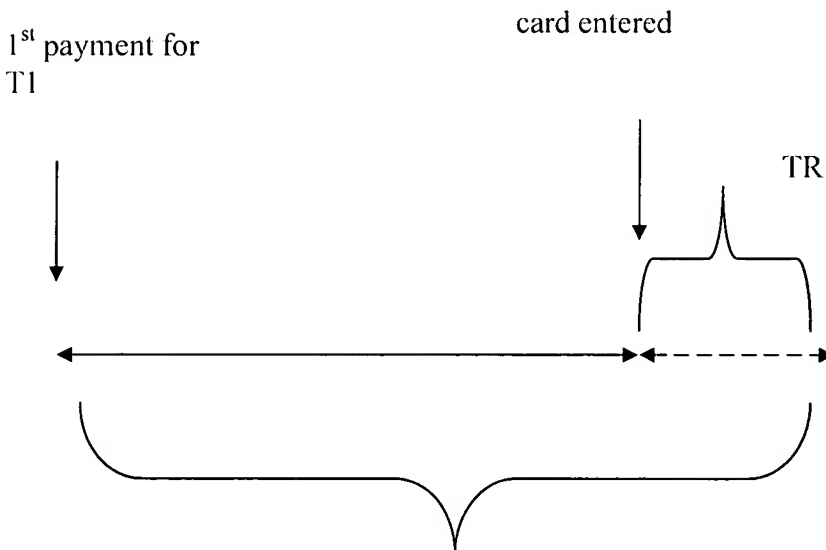
The following shows an example of such a scenario.



Such an arrangement does not provide a code at the first payment, and thus the user can not extend their time whenever they want. To the extent that a “code” is provided it is at the time of the new payment call which is set by the system not by the user. Also, the second time is merely an additional block of time. It does not offer a hybrid second time with credit from not-yet-used/remainder first time. It thus does not automatically increase, by the payment system, the second authorized parking time by a residual authorized time corresponding to the first authorized parking time linked to the first payment identified by the received extending code as claimed in claim 1.

To form the obviousness rejection, the Examiner has also cited to the ‘906 patent. This reference describes a user making a first payment for parking time with a parking charge card, and, later, the user reinserting the parking charge card and pressing a “CANCEL” button. This erases any unexpired time and credits that parking charge card with the unused amount of the parking fee.

The following shows an example of such a scenario.



The Examiner contends that the information stored into the parking charge card can be considered as a code. according to the invention. However, this is a refund code and not an extending code. Moreover, it is not provided at the time of the first payment as claimed in claim 1.

Presumably after receiving a refund to their card, the user may use the refunded amount to make a subsequent purchase of parking time as a new transaction, but this is not the same as making an additional time/parking purchase that has added holdover time from a first paid time.

As such, the '906 reference does not teach -

- supplying, by the payment system, to the user an extending code specific to the first payment for extending parking time;
- receiving, at the payment system, from the user a second payment corresponding to a second authorized parking time,
- automatically increasing, by the payment system, the second authorized parking time by a residual authorized time corresponding to the first authorized parking time linked to the first payment identified by the received extending code.

If the user in Amirpanahi wants to extend the parking time whenever they want, it is necessary to insert their card, cancel, wait for the refund, and then perform a new transaction. The present invention only requires that a second payment be made with the additional entering of the previously received extension code. Then automatically, the second parking time is increased.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the Silberberg and Amirpanahi concern opposite situations: the extension of parking time (Silberberg) and

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the cancellation of parking time (Amirpanahi).

However, even if combined as suggested, the resulting system still does not teach or suggest supplying, by the payment system, to the user an extending code specific to the d first payment for extending parking time nor would it teach or suggest automatically increasing, by the payment system, the second authorized parking time by a residual authorized time corresponding to the first authorized parking time linked to the first payment identified by the received extending code.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of independent claims 1 and 10 be withdrawn. Also, as claimed 2-9 and 11-12 depend from claims 1 and 10, these new claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-12 are in condition for allowance, the earliest possible notice of which is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner feels that an interview would facilitate the prosecution of this Application they are invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

SOFER & HAROUN, L.L.P.

By _____

Joseph Sofer
Reg. No 34,438
317 Madison Avenue
Suite 910
New York, NY 10017
(212) 697-2800
Customer # 39600

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